

STATINTL

They Would Frustrate Him Out of Business

# Many Are Still Trying Hard to Harass J. Edgar Hoover

By HENRY J. TAYLOR

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

One of the most off-beat undertakings you can imagine is now under way. It is an attempt to harass J. Edgar Hoover.

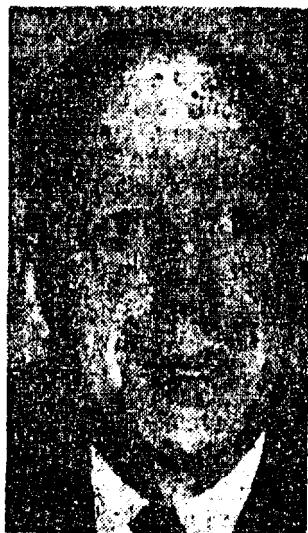
The FBI Director cannot be forced out from the top. President Kennedy's quick request for him to stay (as with CIA Chief Allen W. Dulles) expressed the President's own feelings and was reassuring.

Moreover, Mr. Hoover's enormous prestige, the respect for him in Congress and the universal recognition of the great service he has performed under four Presidents since 1924 makes him perhaps the most unassailable man in American public life.

## Harassment

But there are so-called "liberal" personal high among the New Frontiersmen. As they come to power, they have been cracking at Mr. Hoover and the FBI for many years. The lightning is coming from their rows. They are harassing him from the inside and intend to make him feel that after 37 years of the job life is too short to live with their manifold attacks when the aim is to make him feel out of the picture.

They have also Mr. Hoover in the Alger Hiss case, the Robert Oppenheimer case and other security distances involving professors and intellectuals. They have long spoken and written of "danger to civil liberties" through mere existence of the FBI. They whooped it up for Lowenthal's strange blasting book, "The Federal Bureau of Investigation"



MR. BROWNELL

when it was published a few years ago and closed in behind Lowenthal in a whole network of support.

## Rayburn, Too

A complainer, as well, is one of the most powerful men here in Washington. Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn.

His antagonism started from a 1953 speech the then Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell Jr. delivered in Chicago, which documented the communist conspiracy and claimed former President Truman had neglected the case of Treasury official Harry Dexter White after receiving repeated warnings about White from the FBI. Mr. Truman denied receiving the warnings.

James F. Byrnes, his Secretary of State at the time, promptly stated he had given these to the President. Mr. Truman then recalled



MR. HOOVER

them but said the FBI had concurred in a plan to leave Red-suspect White in Government service to keep an eye on him.

This is all a part of the public record. But what is hardly known is that Mr. Hoover precipitated the next phase himself. At this point he walked into Atty. Gen. Brownell's office and asked the right to testify (without subpoena) before a congressional committee that the Truman reference to the FBI was not true. Mr. Brownell did not request him to do so and the action was most unusual for Mr. Hoover. But he felt, and felt intensely, that the integrity of the FBI had been challenged.

## Collaborated

His testimony collaborated Mr. Brownell and, from that moment on, earned him the cold and unforgiving wrath of Sam Rayburn, who accused him privately but ve-



MR. RAYBURN

hemently of playing Republican politics.

Mr. Hoover reached the retirement age of 65 shortly before last year's Presidential election. On that occasion the Senate and House of the 86th Congress enacted companion bills which on Sept. 8, 1960, became Public Law 734, giving Mr. Hoover an annuity equal to his salary if and when he retired, as is likewise given Justices of the Supreme Court. (The legislation does not mention Mr. Hoover by name, but provides for anyone who has been director of the FBI for more than 30 years.)

This bill was not knowingly introduced. It was an anchor to windward cast by Mr. Hoover's admirers in case the forthcoming 1960 political cards turned in such a way that he might feel he could not be effective and thus should not continue.

Now with the elevation of many of his chief detractors to the highest places in government, including some in the White House, the internal harassment technique is organized and in motion.